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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0269

UNCLAS SEOUL 12720

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PTER KS

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREA: 1992 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: A) STATE 338430, B) SEOUL 004491

¶11. SUMMARY. THE ROKG VIEWS ITSELF AS A POTENTIAL TARGET FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND SHARES A STRONG POLICY AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WITH THE UNITED STATES. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN 1992, AND NO ROKG PROSECUTIONS OR EXTRADITIONS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE POLICE IN KOREA CONSIDER RECURRING INCIDENTS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE TO BE CRIMINAL ACTS AND NOT TERRORIST EVENTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ROKG ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC TERRORISM SINCE 1991, BUT THE ROKG HAS FAILED TO REDUCE THE LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN KOREA, AS STIPULATED IN UNSC RESOLUTION 748. END SUMMARY.

ROK AS A TARGET OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

¶12. THE ROKG SHARES USG CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST THREAT, AND OUR POLICIES ON TERRORISM AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT. AS RECENTLY AS 1987, THE ROK WAS THE VICTIM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM SPONSORED BY NORTH KOREA WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 115 PASSENGERS ABOARD KAL FLIGHT 858. THE SELF-CONFESSED SABOTEUR OF KAL FLIGHT 858 WAS TRIED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH, BUT RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON IN 1990 AFTER COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE ROK AND IMPLICATING NORTH KOREA IN THE BOMBING.

¶13. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN 1992, AND NO ROKG PROSECUTIONS OR EXTRADITIONS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ROKG ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC TERRORISM SINCE 1991.

¶14. THE POLICE IN KOREA CONSIDER RECURRING INCIDENTS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE TO BE CRIMINAL ACTS AND NOT TERRORIST EVENTS. THE ROKG REACTS VIGOROUSLY TO OCCASIONAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT USG FACILITIES IN KOREA WHICH PROVIDE CONVENIENT TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT PROTESTERS. THE INFLUENCE OF THE RADICAL STUDENT MOVEMENT IN KOREA IS DIMINISHING WITH PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION. YET STUDENTS CONTINUED TO STAGE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS DURING 1992, USING FIREBOMBS, FOR EXAMPLE, AGAINST THE USIS LIBRARY IN DOWNTOWN SEOUL ON APRIL 19 AND AGAINST RIOT POLICE IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEOUL, INCHON, AND KWANGJU ON AUGUST 11.

¶15. ROKG SECURITY AGENCIES CONTINUE TO BE ALERT TO POSSIBLE TERRORIST THREATS TO U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS. THE USG AND ROKG ROUTINELY SHARE INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREATS.

A STRONG POLICY AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

¶16. THE ROKG HAS A STRONG POLICY AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM BORNE OF ITS CONCERN OVER NORTH KOREAN TERRORIST ATTACKS. ON MAY 22, 1992 THREE ARMED NORTH KOREAN INFILTRATORS WERE INTERCEPTED AND KILLED BY SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER SOUTH OF THE MDL.

¶17. NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA SIMULTANEOUSLY JOINED THE UNITED NATIONS AS FULL MEMBERS IN OCTOBER 1991. THE ROKG, WHILE DECLARING SUPPORT FOR UN SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA, HAS TAKEN NO STEPS TO REDUCE THE LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THE ROK, AS STIPULATED IN UNSC RESOLUTION 748. MOFA

OFFICIALS HAVE SEVERAL TIMES SAID (SEE REF B) THAT THE ROKG WAS "SERIOUSLY EXAMINING" HOW TO COMPLY WITH THIS PART OF UNSCR 748 BUT THAT NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE.

¶ 8. THE ROKG HAS NOT AND DOES NOT SUPPORT STATE TERRORISM AND DOES NOT PROVIDE DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, FINANCIAL OR OTHER SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE ROKG HAS NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A TERRORIST-SUPPORTED COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE.

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